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REMARKS

In the Action, claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-9 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious and thus unpatentable over the Eckardt et al. patent (U.S. No. 6,143,237). In addition, claims 1-9 were rejected under that same statutory section as being obvious and thus unpatentable over the Horikoshi et al. patent (U.S. No. 5,849,377). Finally, claims 1-9 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over certain claims in co-pending application Serial No. 10/250,294.

In response to the Official Action, the present claims have been amended and a new set of claims added. It is submitted that neither of the two cited references, namely the Eckardt et al. and Horikoshi et al. patents, disclose or suggest the inventive combination of features forming the Applicant's invention as defined by the claims remaining in the case and presented by this Amendment.

Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to indicate that the plastic material which is displaced from one portion of the mold cavity flows through a passageway or flow channel into the area of the mold cavity which is increased in volume (i.e. in which a void is created). Neither Eckardt or Horikoshi et al. disclose or suggest such a feature.

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In addition, new independent claim 10 has been substituted for original independent claim 9, which has been cancelled. Independent claim 10 is directed to a method of making a plastic injected molded article in a mold cavity with three separate areas or portions, namely a main portion, a portion which is to be hollowed out (typically a thicker section in the completed article) and a portion which is to be filled with plastic material when a core or insert member is moved. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the plastic article to be molded is a vehicle door panel. The portion of the article which is to be hollowed out typically comprises a rib member, such as a rib along a door pocket, and the portion which is to be filled with plastic material subsequent to the gas injection is a speaker grill member. The remainder of the plastic article comprises the majority of the door panel which essentially has a constant cross-section.

Neither of the primary references cited by the Examiner teach a mold cavity with three distinct portions or areas as called for by claim 10.

Finally, in order to overcome the Examiner's obviousness-type double patenting rejection, a Terminal Disclaimer is being submitted herewith. Both the present application and application Serial No. 10/250,294 are commonly owned.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that independent claim 1, together with claims 2-5 dependent therefrom, independent claim 6, together with

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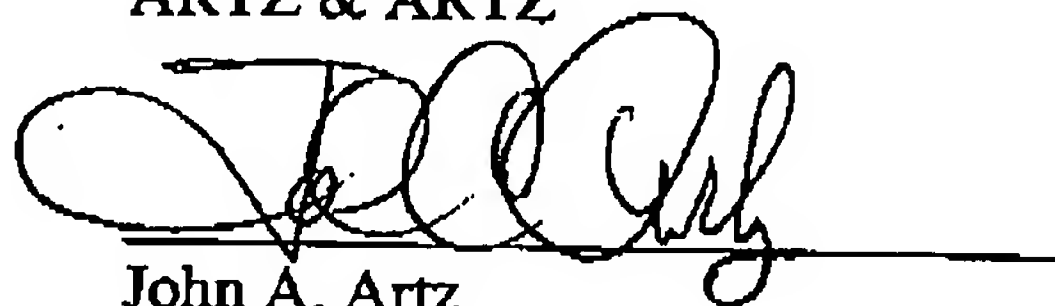
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claims 7-8 dependent therefrom, and new independent claim 10, together with claims 11-17 dependent therefrom, are in proper form and patentably distinguish from the prior art.

Accordingly, allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issuance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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